

FINLAND.

HELSINGFORS—BORGÅ



BORGÅ.

A
PLEASING TOUR
THROUGH THE
FINNISH SKERRIES



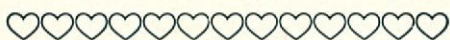
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In the neighbourhood of Borgå.

Although only a three hours trip from Helsingfors to Borgå, the tourist is able to obtain by it some impression of the varied beauties of the Finnish Skerries.

On a fine summer evening when the water is just rippled by the gentle breeze nothing can be more delightful than this cruise, at one moment passing through a wide and stately fjord, at another through the narrowest of channels, amidst labyrinths of shallow creeks, their shimmering waters barely separating the innumerable islets; their mirror surface reflecting the idyllic villas and leafy shores. The constant ever — widening circles which bubble from below proclaim an abundance of fish. Silence is everywhere and the gathering glow of the sunset offers a picture rarely to be seen outside a Northern summer.

The service between the capital and Borgå is maintained by the well equipped coasting steamers „Helsingfors“ and „Borgå“, which make the trip each morning and afternoon. To avoid the heat of the day and to realise the utmost charm of the scenery the afternoon excursion is preferable.

On leaving the Södra Hamnen, Helsingfors, we pass on the left the most modern



En route.

portion of the city, *Skatudden*, where the elegant blocks of flats and mercantile buildings bear the characteristic impress of Finnish architecture. Of the two islands on the right, the nearest is *Blekholmen* with the clubhouse of the *Nylands Yacht Club*, whilst the other is the restaurant „*Klippan*“, ideally situated with a view over town and harbour and out to sea. As the vessel crosses the *Kronbergsfjord* or roads of Hel-

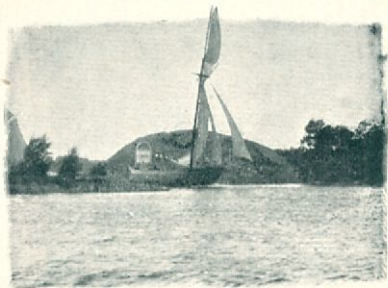


Villinge.

singfors, the outlines of the city become more and more indistinct but silhouetted against the sky can still be distinguished the slender spires of the *New Church*, the massive columns of the *Nicolai Church*,



View from Hästnässund.



Hästnässund.

and the golden cupolas of the *Russian Cathedral*. On the left we pass the island of *Högholmen*, where are the *Zoological Gardens*, and then through the *Hästnässund*, a channel blasted through the rocks and so narrow that the vessel almost grazes its sides. On either shore are dotted pretty summer villas half hidden among the trees. Past *Sandhamn* with its Russian barracks



Looking to the outer isles.

and beyond the large island *Degerö* we come to *Villinge* a gem among beauty spots. Its many creeks with clear crystal water, make a popular and charming resort for picnics. After passing this point dinner is served and through the saloon windows we get a glimpse between the fir clad islets of the *Gulf of Finland*. The granite cliffs and rocks of the outer archipelago are fine



Villinge.

polished by the waves and glisten in the setting sun. Far off on the horizon the sea sinks into the sky. Back again on the inner waters the Gulf disappears all too quickly from view and we are again threading the clusters of tree clad isles. Now and then we spy a fishermans cottage or a peasants hut and more rarely an isolated villa, girt round with birch or pine. Very soon we cross the *Haiko fjord*, the outer and real

harbour of Borgå for the river is too shallow to admit any but small vessels. In the distance up this fjord can be seen the summer residence of *Albert Edelfelt* († 1905), Finland's greatest painter. Entering the river mouth Borgå the goal of our short trip appears before us. At first only the modern part of the town can be seen a series of



On the Beach.

(Amat. Foto. I. Timiriasew).

broad streets and esplanades but behind, nestles on the hill a collection of old timber houses, whilst on the summit rises the *Cathedral*.

Borgå, with about 5,500 inhabitants is one of the oldest towns in Finland and has preserved to a great measure its mediæval appearance. The winding narrow streets have provided many charming motives for Finnish and other artists. The town, which

traces its origin far back into the middle ages, took its name from an even more ancient castle which stood on the west side of the river. The event for which it will always be remembered in Finnish history was the *Diet of 1809*. After the conquest of Finland, the Emperor Alexander I in the Cathedral of Borgå ratified and confirmed „the religion, fundamental laws and privileges“ of the country and declared Fin-



Borgå.

(Amat. Foto. I. Timiriasew).

land to be „raised among the nations“. It is on these solemn declarations given by the monarch on this occasion that the constitution of Finland is founded. In 1909 a monument of the Emperor Alexander I was erected in the Cathedral of Borgå to fitly commemorate the centenary of this greatest national event.

Many others of Finland's great memories are connected with Borgå. In the first place here the greatest poet of the country *Johan Ludvig Runeberg* (1804—1887) lived and is buried. The simple home where he



Borgbacken.

(Amat. Foto. I. Timiriasew).

wrote his patriotic verse, where he imagined the heroes of his national epics, Zanrik, Stäls and Sägner is still preserved by a grateful town in loving reverence and his monument adorns one of the principal esplanades.

In Borgå also is buried *Eugen Schauman*, a young hero, who gave his life to save his country from oppression and despotism.



Monument of Runeberg.



Runeberg's Home.

Sights of Borgå:

Runeberg's Home,
 " Statue,
 " Grave in the cemetery,
 Public Museum,
 Art-Gallery of historical works, situated in
 the old Town Hall
 Cathedral
 Borgbacken (views),
 Näsebacken (views)
 Old Town,
 Grave of Eugene Schauman.



Runeberg's grave.



Glimpse along the shore.
(Amat. Foto. I. Timiriasew).



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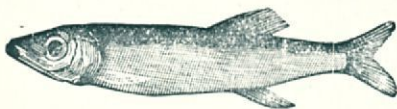


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